

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. Claim 9 is amended to incorporate the features recited in claim 10, and claim 10 is, accordingly, cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer for consistency with the corresponding PCT application.

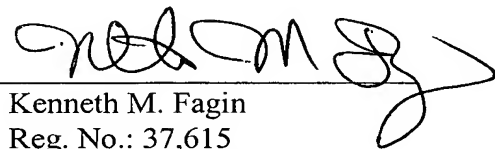
Early and favorable consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached Appendix is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made"**.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Appendix



APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

9. (Amended) An installation for desalinating or purifying saline or otherwise polluted input water, said installation comprising:

a desalination fractionation installation having a lower, hydrate formation region;

an input water conduit which is arranged to provide input water to said hydrate formation region; and

a gas supply conduit which is arranged to provide hydrate-forming gas to said hydrate formation region;

said installation further comprising a hydrate dissociation region disposed at an upper portion of said installation and in fluid communication with said hydrate formation region, said hydrate dissociation region comprising a plurality of cooling segments in heat exchanging relationship with said input water; and

wherein the input water is at least partially cooled by being passed through said dissociation region in heat exchanging relationship with the dissociation region, whereby heat is absorbed from said input water as hydrate located in the dissociation region dissociates endothermically.

11. (Amended) The installation of claim 10, wherein said cooling segments are separated by walls which [in] prevent hydrate from moving laterally from one cooling segment to another.